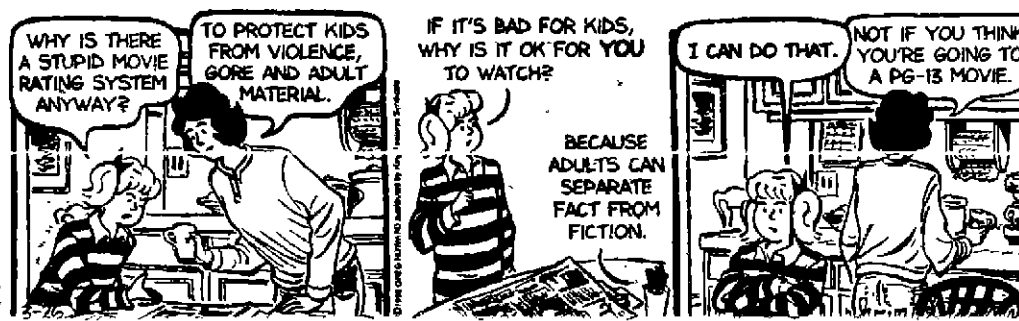


BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



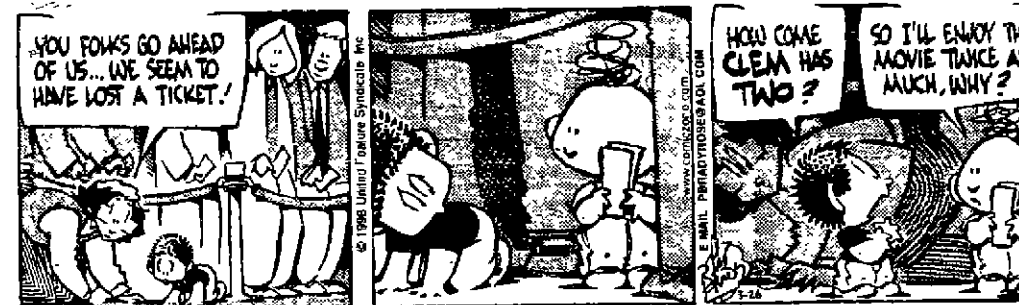
9 CHICKWEED LANE



ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



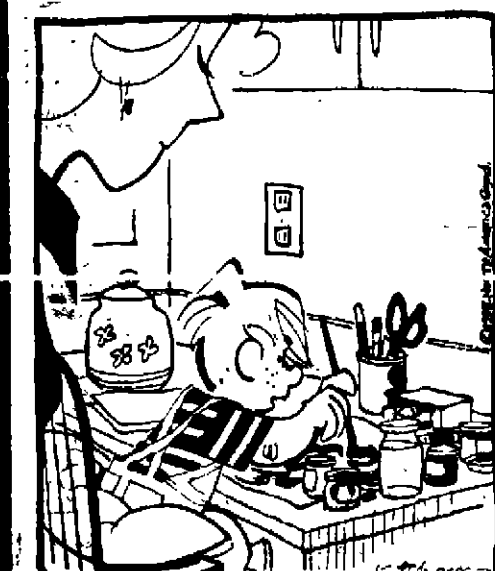
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



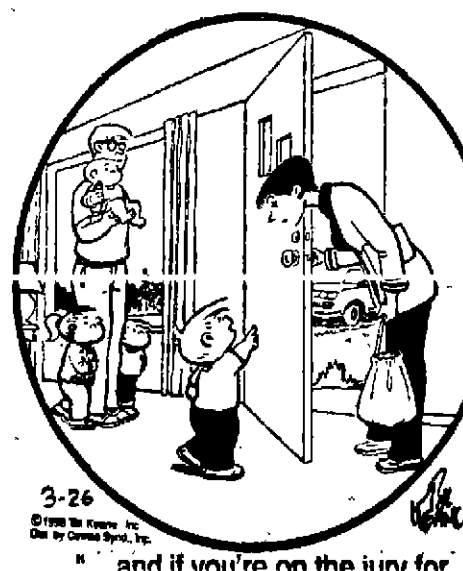
DILBERT



DENNIS THE MENACE



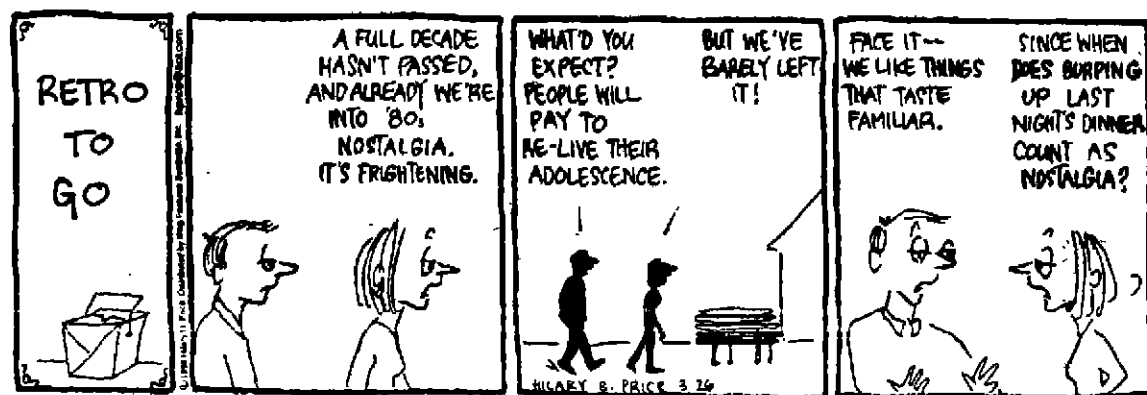
FAMILY CIRCUS



"I WON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DRAWING UNTIL I'M FINISHED."

Daddy's parking ticket case, are you voting guilty or not guilty?"

RHYMES WITH ORANGE



HOROSCOPE

For Friday, March 27, 1998

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Finally, the weekend is at hand and you can feel free to relax.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You begin a project that is going to take some time. Evening hours promise a comfortable domestic routine.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Some are lucky enough to have a satisfying.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Timing is everything. Although you're impatient to get things done, you'll have to slow down.
LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You need to phrase that apology carefully for it to be effective. Later, you and the injured party can experience a meeting of the minds.
VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You're not thrilled about the amount of domestic chores facing you this weekend. However, if you enlist the aid of other household members, you accomplish all your goals.
LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You still find tact your best asset when dealing with two feuding friends.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You're going full tilt at that work assignment, and it shows.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) What you consider taking a shot in the dark pays off handsomely for a friend. However, you don't necessarily have to go the same route.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) A loved one helps you start the day in a delightful way. You apply yourself diligently at work.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) It's so unlike you to remain in a dour mood. Push yourself to be more gregarious.
PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You feel overwhelmed by the amount of domestic chores facing you over the weekend.

RALPH



"Niagara Falls?! For a honeymoon or what?"

WORD SLEUTH

"G" words in sports

X G C Z V S P L I E B Y V Y R
 O L I F N G C Z W T M G R Q N
 K I F C E R Z W U R A E P M J
 H E C G E I Z X L L L U S Q N
 L J G E R D C Z L L S X V T R
 P N L J G I H O A E D N T C E
 A Y W V T R P G B R N I I V P
 N L K K C O L C E M A G O A L
 I G E C B N Z P M G R L A X G
 W U S R P S D R A U G O M T L
 J I G E E M M I G G D B A Y E

Wednesday's unlisted clue: MIDDLE

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Thursday's unlisted clue hint: THE PUTTING AREA

Gain Game ball Gimme Gridiron
 Gait Game clock Glove Grip
 Gallery Gap Goal Guards
 Gallop Gate Grand slam

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For solution, see Classified.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

In a duplicate game, every North-South pair reached today's spade game, but not everyone made it. Whether it was played by North or by South, the defense led a club. Those who bet all on the routine diamond finesse went set. Those who found another approach suc-

NORTH 43-25-A
 ♠ J 8 8 6
 ♥ 1 8
 ♦ 1 10 9 2

WEST
 ♠ 3 2
 ♥ A 9 8 3
 ♦ Q 7 5
 ♣ K Q 8 3

EAST
 ♠ 5 4
 ♥ K 7 2
 ♦ 6 4 2
 ♣ J 10 9 5 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A K 10 7
 ♥ Q 10 5 4
 ♦ A K 9
 ♣ A 6

Vulnerable: North-South
 Dealer: South

The bidding:
 2NT* Pass 3♥** Pass
 3♠ Pass 3NT Pass
 4♠ Pass Pass
 *20-21 HCP
 **Jacoby Transfer

Opening lead: Club king
 dummy's diamond jack for a losing finesse. West took his club queen and switched to hearts, four tricks and down one for the defense. The more enterprising declarers saw an obscure finessing position in the heart suit. They took the club ace, drew trumps, and led a heart to dummy's eight. East won his king, cashed his club jack and switched to diamonds. However, South won and led another heart, forcing West to take his ace. This stymied the defense. West could make no damaging lead, and South discarded two of dummy's diamonds on his Q-10 of hearts to score 10 winners. Note the heart finesse is a free shot. South must lose two heart tricks in any event, so it costs nothing to try a finesse against the heart nine first. If it fails, South retains his fall-back position in the diamond suit.

BRIDGE RESULTS

Bridge America: Tuesday morning, 1 NS, Dan Appgar, Edith Farnham; 2 NS, Bob Seymour, Julie Sunser; 1 EW, Doug Lyon, Larry Spooner; 2 EW, Gerri Herold, Jean Oberg; Saturday evening, first, Bill Pennington, Janet Sinclair; second, Millie Albright, Matt Brown.

The Bridge Studio: Sunday afternoon, first, Julie Sunser, Larry Sunser, second, Paul Peters, Cornelia Yoder, Monday morning, first, Carl Brown, Claude Henri; second, Al Gelman, Jack Koerner; Monday evening, first, Carl Hileman, Doug Lyon; second, Bill Barrington, Bill Oliver; Tuesday evening, first, Nan Cramer, Celeste Johnson; second, Carl Banick, Bill Barrington; Wednesday evening, first, Joanne Baccile, Doug Lyon; second, Bob Herold, Gerri Herold; Thursday morning teaching game, 1 NS, Joe Myers, Sarah Myers; 2 NS, Debi Belanger, Sheila Comerford; 1 EW, Dick Steinbugler, Mary Stenbugler; 2 EW, Joanne Greenhouse, Sheila Hunter; Thursday evening, first, Bill Barrington, Don Paulus; second, third, Mary Walsh, Mike Walsh; Larry Spooner, Cornelia Yoder; Friday morning, first, Joe Fortino, Larry Sunser; second, Sarah Fiorito, Janet Sinclair.

Concord Aces: Monday morning, 1 NS, Jane Hackbarth, Bib Letham; 2 NS, Doug Lyon, Sharlene Kostichka; 1 EW, Gayle Barrington, Dale Swift; 2 EW, Judy Butcher, Bill Fleming.

Liverpool: Wednesday morning, 1 NS, Carol Arman, Alberta McCormick; 2 NS, Fran McCarthy, Clo Morris; 1 EW, Gene Wurdinger, Gerry Wurdinger; 2 EW, Mary Gorkin, Helene Gove.

Stonehedge: Tuesday morning, first, Jane Hackbarth, Louise Staring; second, Marcella Guyder, Nancy Rude.

Syracuse Contract: Wednesday evening, first, Dan Boye, Gerry Radway; second, John Hemmer, John Herman; Thursday afternoon, first, Carole Neuburger, Bonnie Percival; second, Judy Butcher, Katherine Worthen; Thursday evening, first, Paul Peters, Norm Radway; second, Joe Conrad, Adeline Nash.

Call 422-4114 by Friday evening to report your bridge club results.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Retired Army Gen. William C. Westmoreland is 84. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is 68. Actor-director Leonard Nimoy is 67. Author Erica Jong is 56. Journalist Bob Woodward is 55. Singer Diana Ross is 54. Actor Johnny Crawford ("The Rifleman") is 52. Rock singer Steven Tyler (Aerosmith) is 50. TV personality Vicki Lawrence is 49. Singer Teddy Pendergrass is 48. Comedian Martin Short is 48. TV personality Leeza Gibbons is 41. Actress Jennifer Grey is 38. Basketball player John Stockton is 36. Rock musician James Iha (Smashing Pumpkins) is 30. Country singer Kenny Chesney is 30.

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0212

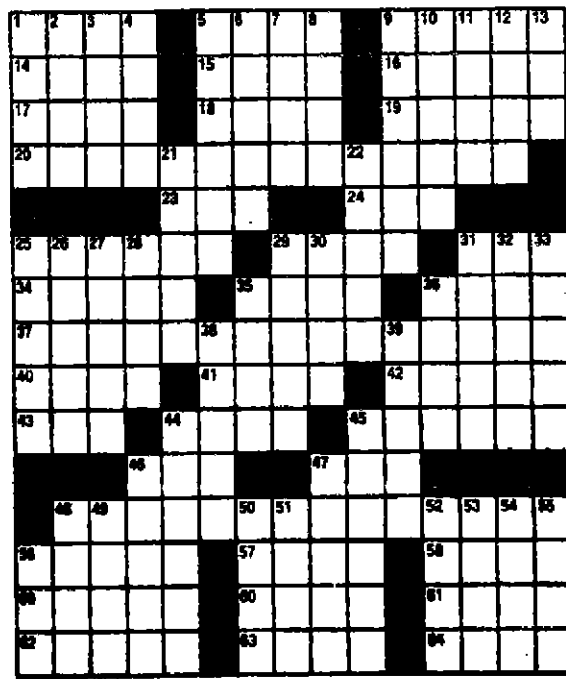
ACROSS
 1 Guitar attachment
 2 Tell secrets
 3 One who tries
 14 "Family Ties" role
 16 Terza (Italian verse form)
 18 Burger garnish
 19 Dot on a map
 18 August
 19 Burn a bit
 20 Opposition?
 23 Novel ending
 24 "1-2-3" singer Barry
 25 Wine and dine
 26 "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" hero
 31 Buddy
 34 Cut off
 35 Egyptian port
 36 Lady's man
 37 Exposition?
 40 — a secret
 41 Sing the praises of
 42 Smart or Smiley
 43 Colonial descendants' grp.
 44 Like a Dali watch
 45 Carol starter
 46 Gained a lap?
 47 Poetic pugilist
 48 Deposition?
 50 Battle lineup
 57 Wahines' wear
 58 Syria, long ago
 59 Hotel offering
 60 Safety, e.g.
 61 Score unit
 62 Beef on the hoof
 63 Lot measurement
 64 Pinnacle

DOWN

1 Street urchin
 2 To boot
 3 Sound
 4 Relative of a Salschow
 5 Enjoy a bookstore
 6 Last straw
 7 Mass assent
 8 Report of a shooting?
 9 Teased
 10 Blue side
 11 Force
 12 Full of energy
 13 Hydrocarbon suffix
 21 Ship of fools?
 22 Tollbooth location
 23 Hog-wild
 24 "Mefistofele" soprano
 27 Attempt
 28 In a while
 29 Purchase what's left
 31 river
 31 Last words?
 32 Don't exist

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

BARBIE HOPE
 ISLAM EMMA ELIA
 VIOLA HAIN NELL
 ADOZEN RED ROSES
 WERE AAA
 ABSTINENT AND
 LLANO INGE LIU
 BOX OF CHOCOLATES
 APE FOOD SPECK
 MED INTERVIEW
 END OBIL
 FINIAKIE MENTIRING



33 One of the Boyers of baseball
 34 Did the butterfly
 35 Nose out
 36 Upper crust
 37 1976 Olympics name
 44 Handle cases
 45 7.2 million-dollar Korean
 46 Express
 47 Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt
 48 Champagne word
 49 Iroquois enemy
 50 Where Napoleon was solo
 51 Within earshot
 52 "Peter Pan" dog
 53 Discontinue
 54 Go with
 55 Payment option, for short
 56 Dummkopf

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone.

Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.